

Serial No. 09/625,717
Page 8 of 11**REMARKS**

Claim 13 has been canceled. Claims 1-12 remain pending in the present application.

Applicant amends claims 1, 4, and 12 for clarification, and refers to Figs. 6-7 and their corresponding description in the specification for exemplary embodiments of and support for the claimed invention. No new matter has been added.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 8-11. Applicant submits that the provided reasons for allowability include only the Examiner's interpretation, which should in no way limit the scope of the allowed claims.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner indicate acceptance of the drawings.

Claims 1-5, 7, and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art ("AAPA") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,430,774 to Dupuy, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,598,413 to Sansom et al.; and claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Dupuy and Sansom et al., and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,559,796 to Edem et al. Applicant amends claims 1, 4, and 12 in a good faith effort to clarify the invention as distinguished from the cited references, and respectfully traverses the rejections.

The Examiner relied upon the description of "differential delay or offset [being] corrected (either at the transmitter, the receiver, or both)" for time-aligning and recombining two half-rate channels into basic rate ISDN format in Sansom et al. (col. 5, lines 51-54) as alleged suggestion to modify AAPA and Dupuy to include delays at sending and receiving sides, respectively. (Emphasis added) The Examiner further contended that the claimed "frame period" delay is merely an adjustable numerical parameter, the patentability of which must be shown by its criticality to the invention that is not disclosed or suggested in the prior art.

84138925_1

Serial No. 09/625,717

Page 9 of 11

The new reference Sansom et al. merely suggests differential delay or offset being corrected at both a transmitter and a receiver for time-aligning and recombining two half-rate channels into basic rate ISDN format. Therefore, it does not disclose or suggest the claimed feature of allocating the respective delays A, A', B, and B' for the bearer service and another bearer service. As conceded by the Examiner, even assuming, arguendo, that it would have been obvious to combine the references at the time the claimed invention was made, the combination would still have failed to disclose or suggest the claimed delays A, A', B, and B' to one frame period. Applicant further submits that the combination would have failed to disclose or suggest allocating the delays of the bearer service over the frame period, to which the receiving side and sending side are synchronized. Indeed, the frame period delay is not a mere adjusted numerical parameter. For eliminating instantaneous interruption in the receiving side, it is necessary to align, in the receiving side, frame timing of frames having offset delay of the sending side. To accomplish this alignment, a reference frame timing with which the sending side and the receiving side are synchronized is used, as claimed. When using the reference frame timing, the smallest delay is the period T. Namely, the frame period delay is a parameter determined to realize bearer integration without instantaneous interruption and with the smallest delay. Advantageously, the claimed delay allocation provides for bearer integration with no instantaneous interruption, an exemplary embodiment of which is illustrated in Fig. 7 of the application. Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of references, even if obvious, would not have disclosed or suggested this feature.

Therefore, AAPA, Dupuy, and Sansom et al., as cited and relied upon by the Examiner, fail to disclose or suggest,

84138925_1

Serial No. 09/625,717

Page 10 of 11

“[a] bearer integration method for integrating a plurality of bearer services into a wireless channel by performing time-division multiplexing/demultiplexing, said bearer integration method comprising the steps of:

inputting each bearer frame of a bearer service in synchronization with reference frame timing of a period T in a sending side;

delaying each bearer frame of said bearer service by one frame period by allocating delays A ($0 < A < T$) and A' ($= T - A$) between the sending side and a receiving side wherein the delay A is allocated in the sending side as a frame offset and the delay A' is allocated in the receiving side, and wherein the sending side and the receiving side are synchronized with the reference frame timing of the period T ;

outputting each bearer frame of said bearer service in the receiving side; and

integrating said bearer service into a wireless channel with another bearer service in which delays B ($A < B < T$) and B' ($= T - B$) are allocated between the sending side and the receiving side wherein the delay B is allocated in the sending side as a frame offset and the delay B' is allocated in the receiving side,” as recited in claim 1. (Emphasis added)

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, together with claims 2-3 and 7 dependent therefrom, is patentable over AAPA, Dupuy, and Sansom et al., separately and in combination, for at least the above-stated reasons. Claims 4 and 12 incorporate features that correspond to those of claim 1 cited above and is, therefore, together with claims 5 dependent from claim 4, patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons. The Examiner relied upon Edem et al. to specifically address the additional features recited in claim 6. The combination of this reference would, therefore, fail to cure the above-described deficiencies of the cited references even assuming such a combination would have been obvious. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 6 is patentable over the cited references for at least the foregoing reasons.

84138925_1

Serial No. 09/625,717

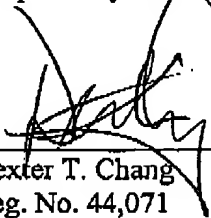
Page 11 of 11

The above statements on the disclosures in the cited references represent the present opinions of the undersigned attorney. The Examiner is respectfully requested to specifically indicate those portions of the respective reference that provide the basis for a view contrary to any of the above-stated opinions.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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